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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretariat

The attention of the Commission is drawn to the attached resolution adopted at the Consultative Meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General of Eastern, Central and Southern African States on the Administration of Justice held at Nairobi on 5 October 1994.

RESOLUTION OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE/ATTORNEYS-GENERAL OF EASTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General of Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe and a high ranking official of the Government of Zambia, held a Consultative Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5 October 1994 to exchange views on the Administration of Justice and Human Rights. The Consultative Meeting was convened by Hon. S. Amos Wako, the Attorney-General of Kenya, as a follow up to the Consultative Meeting of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 5-7 October 1992 and also to take stock of the developments which have taken place in this area since the World Conference on Human Rights which was held in Vienna, Austria in June 1993.

The Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General conscious of the importance of the relationship between administration of justice and human rights in the development of their respective countries, and the need for greater funding by national governments and technical and financial assistance from the international community, to institutions concerned with the administration of justice,

Reaffirms the principles and conclusions which are contained in the Joint Statement of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General dated 7 October 1992,*

Recognises with appreciation that the principles and conclusions enunciated in the said Joint Statement were accepted by the international community and are reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,

Notes that the World Conference on Human Rights which met in Vienna, Austria from 14-25 June 1993, adopted a Declaration which called upon the international community to provide an increased level of both technical and financial assistance to institutions concerned with the administration of justice,

Observes that there is an emerging tendency to implement the Vienna Declaration in a selective and discriminatory manner,

Concerned that the selective and discriminatory implementation of the Declaration would defeat the objective of promotion and protection of all human rights throughout the world,

1. Strongly urges the international community to give equal attention and focus to the parts of the Vienna Declaration which call upon the international community to give financial and technical assistance to institutions concerned with the administration of justice, such as the judiciary, the law enforcement agencies, the prison systems and the offices of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General.

2. Calls upon the Organisation of African Unity to urgently convene a meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General to discuss the issue of Administration of Justice and Human Rights in Africa.

3. Authorises the Attorney-General of Kenya to bring the contents of this resolution to the attention of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity and other international and regional organizations concerned with this matter.

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* See A/CONF.157/AFRM/5.